

recall, approximately 50 percent of the revenue from the state lottery goes to the Education Innovation Fund and that money is available for one-time projects that are applied for on a grant basis. And, currently, the organizations that are eligible, if I'm remembering correctly, for this are it's limited to school districts. What this amendment would do is expand that to include nonprofit educational organizations and also allow the Department of Education to participate. Essentially, what has come to Senator Withem's attention is that the...there is something called the statewide systemic initiative for math and science that would be unable to apply for grants under the current structure of the bill. And this is...this is an entity that is eligible for federal funding, assuming it comes up with enough support at the state level, and to have lottery monies available to it would, obviously, ease the process as far as it meeting the match that it needs for federal monies. Also, the Department of Education, under this amendment, would participate in an advisory capacity to make sure that the money that is being appropriated under the Education Innovation Fund would be spent as wisely as possible. So with that, this is not a major change in the legislation. It is a change that Senator Withem has spoken to me about. Were he here today he would be offering this amendment himself. In his absence, I would simply ask that you approve this minor amendment to the way that the lottery money is allocated, to whom it is allocated. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. I will now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Will amendment. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Will described this as a minor amendment. I would like to ask him a question. Senator Will, does that mean it will allow minors to play the lottery?

SENATOR WILL: No, Senator Chambers, in no way, shape or form.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Will minors be allowed to play the lottery should a state lottery come into effect?

SENATOR WILL: Minors would not be allowed to purchase or cash in tickets.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When I look at page 38, which is one of the pages your amendment goes to...or Senator Withem's amendment